

# FOOD SAFETY NEWS YOU CAN USE

FEBRUARY 2014

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## DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

We value your comments!

MCDH values your feedback regarding your experience with the Division of Environmental Health.

Please visit our website at [www.mcdh.info](http://www.mcdh.info) to complete the Food Protection Program customer satisfaction survey. Click on "Environmental Health" to access the survey located at the top of the webpage.

Your feedback will help us to improve the quality of our services.

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## CHANGES IN THE ILLINOIS FOOD SERVICE SANITATION CERTIFICATION

The Illinois Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act was amended and passed into law on August 27, 2013. The changes to the existing training and certification requirements for food safety managers (FSSMC) are outlined below.

### After July 1, 2014:

- ♦ The 15 hour Food Service Sanitation Training will become an 8 hour class including the test; recertification will be required every 5 years
- ♦ The refresher courses will no longer be available
- ♦ All individuals seeking either recertification or a new certificate are required to take an 8 hour class inclusive of exam

### Individuals whose current FSSMC certificate expires on or before June 30, 2015:

- ♦ Can take a refresher course any time prior to July 1, 2014
- ♦ Can take a refresher course prior to July 1, 2014 as long as it is not sooner than 1 year prior to expiration date. For example, someone with an expiration date of December 20, 2014 cannot take a refresher course prior to December 20, 2013
- ♦ Still must pay the renewal fee on time
- ♦ May also take an 8 hour course with exam after July 1, 2014 in order to recertify

### Individuals whose FSSMC certificate expires on or after July 1, 2015:

- ♦ Are not eligible to take a refresher course any time and must complete the 8 hour course with exam for certification

If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Environmental Health at (815) 334-4585.

MCHENRY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
*DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH*

COMING JULY 2014  
FOOD HANDLER TRAINING

The Illinois Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act requires all restaurant food handlers (excluding an Illinois Food Service Sanitation Certificate holder) to complete 2 hours of IDPH approved food handler training within 30 days of hire.

A food handler is defined as an individual working with unpackaged food, food equipment, or food-contact surfaces.

Food handlers for restaurants or convenience stores that prepare foods must complete training by July 1, 2014. Documentation of completed training must be maintained onsite.

Nursing homes, licensed daycare homes and facilities, hospitals, schools, long-term care facilities and retail stores will be required to complete food handler training beginning in July 2016.

Food handler courses must be approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and can be found at the ANSI website, or at a local health department that has an approved training program for restaurants. Training can be online, computer-based, classroom, remote trainers, or administered by a Certified Food Sanitation Managers. The cost per training cannot exceed \$15.00.

The Illinois Department of Public Health is currently developing guidelines for both inspectors and food establishments for implementation of the program.

Additional information will be made available on the Department's webpage along with a list of approved training locations as the information becomes available. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Environmental Health at (815) 334-4585.

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FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS FEATURING LOCALLY  
GROWN FOOD

The Agricultural Conservation Easement & Farmland Protection Commission is interested in compiling a list of McHenry County food establishments that feature food from local McHenry County farmers. The information would be made available to the general public through the Commission's website. The McHenry County Local Food Assessment, which was recently adopted by the McHenry County Board, recognizes that "restaurants in McHenry County that feature locally grown food on their menu are vital to the viability of the local food economy."

If you would like your food establishment to be included on this list, please contact Kim Kolner at the McHenry County Department of Planning & Development. Kim can be reached via email at [kskolner@co.mchenry.il.us](mailto:kskolner@co.mchenry.il.us) or by phone at 815-334-4555.

If your food establishment is looking to add locally grown food to your menu, the McHenry County Farm Bureau may be able to assist you. You can contact the Farm Bureau via their website at [mchenrycfc.org](http://mchenrycfc.org) or by phone at 815-338-1520.

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